

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 9. (Cancelled).

10. (New) A method of manufacturing a vehicle frame assembly comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming a first vehicle frame component by:
 - (1) providing a closed channel structural member;
 - (2) deforming the closed channel structural member to have a relatively small end portion and a relatively large end portion;
 - (3) providing a member having first and second ends and that is sized approximately the same as the size of the relatively large end portion of the closed channel structural member; and
 - (4) securing the relatively large end portion of the closed channel structural member to the first end portion of the member to form the first vehicle frame component;
- (b) providing a plurality of second vehicle frame components; and
- (c) securing the first vehicle frame component and the plurality of second vehicle frame components together to form the vehicle frame assembly.

11. (New) The method defined in Claim 10 wherein said step of deforming the closed channel structural member is performed by hydroforming.

12. (New) A method of manufacturing a vehicle frame assembly comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming first and second vehicle frame components by:
 - (1) providing a closed channel structural member;
 - (2) deforming the closed channel structural member to have a relatively small central portion and first and second relatively large end portions;

- (3) dividing the closed channel structural member to provide a first section including the first relatively large end portion and a second section including the second relatively large end portion;
 - (4) providing a first member having first and second ends and that is sized approximately the same as the size of the first relatively large end portion of the first section;
 - (5) securing the first relatively large end portion of the first section to the first end portion of the first member to form the first vehicle frame component;
 - (6) providing a second member having first and second ends and that is sized approximately the same as the size of the second relatively large end portion of the second section; and
 - (7) securing the second relatively large end portion of the second section to the first end portion of the second member to form the second vehicle frame component;
- (b) providing a plurality of second vehicle frame components; and
 - (c) securing the first vehicle frame component and the plurality of second vehicle frame components together to form the vehicle frame assembly.

13. (New) The method defined in Claim 12 wherein said step of deforming the closed channel structural member is performed by hydroforming.

14. (New) The method defined in Claim 12 wherein said step of dividing the closed channel structural member is performed by dividing the relatively small central portion of the closed channel structural member.